

SWADLINCOTE DISTRICT
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

For the Year 1896.

SWADLINCOTE :
R. LEE, PRINTER.

SWADLINCOTE
DISTRICT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

For 1896.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

In submitting my annual report for the year ended December, 1896, I would premise by saying, that the rate per 1,000 of Births and Deaths has been calculated upon an estimated population up to the middle of last year of 14,675.

The total number of deaths was 198, viz., 93 males, and 105 females, showing a death rate of 13·49 per 1,000.

Death rate for 1893, 17·57	} per 1,000
„ „ 1894, 15·63	
„ „ 1895, 13·8	

The deaths registered from zymotic disease were 15, giving a death rate from this cause at 1·02 per 1,000

The death rate from zymotic causes,	
in 1893 was 2·21	} per 1,000
„ 1894 „ 2·81	
„ 1895 „ 1·52	

The total number of births registered was 584, viz., 285 males, and 299 females. The birth rate for the year was 39·79 per 1,000 as compared with 1893, 39·14

„ „ 1894, 41·97	} per 1,000
„ „ 1895, 42·3	

This equals a net increase during the year of 192 males, and 194 females, a higher birth rate, and increased death rate for females.

DEATH RATE FOR SWADLINCOTE DISTRICT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL AS
REQUIRED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1894.

Name of Disease.				Under 5 years.			Over 5 years.		
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	0	...	...	...	0
Scarletina	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	..	0
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	0	...	...	...	0
Membranous Croup	...	...	...	...	0	...	...	...	0
Fevers.	{ Typhus	...	...	...	0	...	...	...	0
	{ Enteric or Typhoid	...	...	...	0	...	...	...	2
	{ Continued	...	...	...	0	...	...	...	0
	{ Relapsing...	...	...	...	0	...	...	...	0
	{ Puerperal ..	...	...	...	0	...	...	...	0
Cholera	...	...	...	...	0	...	...	..	0
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	0	...	...	...	0
Measles	...	...	...	...	0	...	...	...	0
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	0
Diarrhoea and Dysentery	...	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	0
Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	0	...	...	...	1
Ague	...	...	...	...	0	...	...	...	0
Bronchitis, Pleurisy and Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	22	...	...	...	16
Heart Disease ..	...	...	...	...	0	...	...	..	15
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	0	...	...	...	12
Influenza	...	...	...	...	0	...	...	...	0
Injuries	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	4
All other Diseases	...	...	...	...	55	...	...	...	56
				92			106		

Total for 1896, from all causes and at all ages 198.

On referring to Table A, accompanying this, we find the summary of deaths at subjoined ages to be children under one year, 72; one year and under five, 20; five years and under fifteen, 8; persons aged fifteen and under twenty-five, 9; twenty-five and under sixty-five, 37; sixty-five years and upwards, 52.

The mortality under one year equals a death rate of 123·28 per 1,000 of births registered, as compared with that for

1893, 180·65 }
1894, 134·22 } per 1,000

The death rate from sixty-five years and upwards was 3·54 per 1,000, as compared with

1893, 3·85 }
1894, 2·04 } per 1,000
1895, 3·46 }

The second part of my report on the Table marked B deals with new cases of infectious sickness. It will be seen from this that 146 cases which were notified to me came under this head, A few cases of measles and whooping cough also occurred.

Smallpox

As in the two preceding years I am glad to be able to report a total immunity from this disease. How long this immunity will continue is another question. I am sorry to say that owing to the fact of the vaccination act being a dead letter, the number of children unvaccinated, throughout the district, is becoming very large, and in case of the introduction of the disease into the council's district I am afraid that the people will have a rude awakening.

Scarlet Fever

One hundred and eleven cases were reported to me during the year, and only two deaths were registered from this cause. I am sorry that the gradual diminution of the epidemic, which I mentioned in my last year's report, as likely to take place, has only partially been fulfilled. The cases throughout were of a mild type and the very mildness of the type I look upon as being a frequent cause of its rapid spread, and as has frequently been brought to your notice by me the need of isolation in the initial cases, owing to the want of an infectious diseases hospital has not been carried out, every means at our disposal were taken to prevent its spread, and amongst others, as you will remember, the teachers if the different schools throughout the district were asked to report on all cases of children attending with sore throats or other suspicious symptoms.

Typhoid Fever

Thirteen cases were reported during the year, in nine instances the disease may be fairly attributed to badly trapped drains and other general insanitary conditions which were rectified, in four instances after the most careful inquiry no cause could be assigned. I trust when the sewerage scheme, (which is nearing its completion). is perfected we may have a complete immunity from this disease.

Erysipelas

Seventeen cases were reported during the year, no deaths occurred from this cause.

Membranous
Croup

One case was reported during the year, and after the most careful enquiry no cause could be assigned for its occurrence.

Diphtheria

Four cases were reported during the year, the probable cause being sewer gas, the cases were of a mild type, and no fatality arose from this cause.

Measles and
Whooping
Cough.

Almost an entire immunity continued throughout the year in the case of the former of these, Whooping Cough became more prevalent towards the end of the year, and three deaths were returned under this head.

Bronchitis and
Pneumonia

Thirty-eight deaths were registered from these causes.

Diarrhoea
and Dysentery

Eight deaths occurred in children under five years, mostly in infants, the most probable cause being improper feeding. The majority of the deaths in the Zymotic group are from this cause.

Water Supply

The quantity and quality of the water throughout the year has been fairly good, but I trust the completion of the Milton Scheme will soon be an accomplished fact.

Disinfecting
Chamber and
Disinfecting

Although repeatedly urged by me, the Council have not as yet I am sorry to say, seen their way to procure the former of these, it is a much needed accessory, if not indispensable, in the combating of the spread of infectious disease, and should be obtained at once. Those recommended by the County Medical Officer, Dr. Barwise, are Thresh, Defries, Rochs. or Washington Lyons. I would also call the Council's attention to a circular letter on these subjects, signed by the Chairman of the Health Committee of the County Council, with one paragraph of which I am in entire accord, *i.e.*, "The usual methods of disinfection adopted are absolutely useless, and a house cannot be regarded as free from infection unless the above precautions are carried out by a person who has been trained for the work." The precautions referred to are the spraying of the rooms with corrosive sublimate solution, by means of a Geneste Herscher Spray, which I would also ask the Council to procure.

Infectious
Diseases
Hospital

As the Council will no doubt remember, I have in each of my monthly reports urged the necessity of a Hospital being provided for the District, and on two occasions during the past year I met a deputation appointed by a neighbouring authority in order to select a site for a conjoint hospital. This scheme has, however, owing to the difficulty of procuring a site equally convenient for both authorities, fallen through. I would again ask the Council's consideration for the early provision of a Hospital of their own. The urgency of its requirement being second to none, in the prevention of the spread of infectious diseases, and the efforts hitherto made in this connection have "come like shadows so depart"

Overcrowding

Six cases were reported, and in three of the instances in which it was found the nuisance was abated.

Scavenging

This has hitherto been done in a fairly satisfactory manner by contract at a cost per 1,000 of the population of £33 14s 7d. per annum. I think the Council have made a wise decision in taking the matter into their own hands. Under the new conditions the work in future will be no doubt more efficiently performed.

Inspection

I have made several periodic and systematic inspections of the District. I have also periodically visited the cowsheds, dairies, and slaughter houses, and by monthly reports informed you as to the health of the District. No case of diseased meat or fish was offered for sale; no occasion arose to take proceedings under the Adulteration of Foods' Act, or in the matter of offensive trades, bakehouses, and workshops.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

JOHN HAMILTON, M.D.



TABLE A.

DEATHS during the Year 1896, in the Swadlincote District Urban District Council, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

AGES AT WHICH DEATHS OCCURRED.

Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	72
1 and under 5 years	...	...	...	...	20
5 „ 15 „	...	...	...	...	8
15 „ 25 „	...	...	...	...	9
25 „ 65 „	...	...	...	...	37
65 years and upwards	...	...	...	...	52
					<hr/> 198

CAUSES OF DEATH.

				Under 5 years.	5 years and upwards.
Scarlatina	...	...	...	2	0
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	0	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	3	0
Diarrhœa and Dysentery	...	...	...	8	0
Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	0	1
Phthisis	...	...	...	0	12
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy	...	...	...	22	16
Heart Disease	...	...	...	0	15
Injuries	...	...	...	2	4
All other Diseases	...	...	...	55	56
				<hr/> 92	<hr/> 106
				<hr/> 198	

TABLE B.

POPULATION, BIRTHS, and of New Cases of
INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the
knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health
during the Year 1896, in the Swadlincote
District Urban District Council, classified
according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities

POPULATION.

Census, 1891	...	...	...	...	13,889
Estimated to middle of 1896	14,675

BIRTHS.

Births registered during year	584
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INFECTIOUS SICKNESS.

				Under 5 years.	5 years and upwards.
Scarlatina	48	63
Diphtheria	0	4
Membranous Croup	...	...	...	1	0
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	2	11
Erysipelas	...	...	...	3	14
<i>Cases removed to Isolation Hospital—</i>					
Scarlatina	...	...	...	1	1
				<hr/> 55	<hr/> 93
				<hr/> 148 <hr/>	

TABLE C.

Summary of SANITARY WORK done in the Inspector of Nuisances' Department during the Year 1896, in the Urban Sanitary District of Swadlincote.

		Inspections and Observations made.	Informal Notices served by Inspector.	Legal Notices by Authority.	Nuisances Abated after Notice.
Dwelling Houses and Schools.	Foul Conditions ...	18	18	0	18
	Overcrowding ...	6	3	0	3
	Unfit for Habitation ...	7	0	7	7
	Dairies and Milkshops ...	13	4	0	4
	Cow Sheds ...	24	3	0	3
	Bakehouses ...	10	0	0	0
	Slaughter-houses ...	12	4	0	4
	Ashpits and Privies ...	135	101	34	135
	Deposits of Refuse and Manure ...	18	18	0	18
	Water-Closets ...	22	22	0	22
House Drainage.	Defective Traps ...	25	25	0	25
	Water Supply ...	18	18	0	18
	Pigsties ...	18	14	4	18
	Smoke Nuisances ...	3	3	0	0
		329	236	45	279

Samples of Water taken for Analysis ... 4
 23 Lots of Bedding Stoved.
 24 Houses Disinfected.



